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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/786,437	02/25/2004	Robert Tigner	0563JB.036284	4878

7590 11/21/2006

Attention: James E. Bradley  
BRACEWELL & PATTERSON, L.L.P.  
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EXAMINER

FORD, JOHN K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3744

DATE MAILED: 11/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

11

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/786,437	TIGNER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	John K. Ford	3744	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/18/06
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8, 9, 12-18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 10, 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/25/04</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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Applicant's response of October 18, 2006 has been carefully considered. Applicant's election of Group I (claims 1-12), without traverse, is acknowledged. Applicant's election of the first species of Figures 1 and 3 (as shown), with traverse, is also acknowledged. Applicant's traverse based on the assertion that the "compressor 31 can easily be substituted in Figure 3 for generator 17b within housing 51 without undue experimentation" is submitted to be of no moment as to whether or not the election requirement is proper or not. In fact the very fact that applicant discusses substitution of one element for another suggests distinct and mutually exclusive species. Regarding paragraph 21 of the specification, applicant was given a full and fair opportunity to elect that species in the previous office action where it was designated as the third species. The traverse is unpersuasive and the election/restriction requirements are made final. Applicant has identified claims 1-7, 10 and 11 as readable on the elected species of Figures 1 and 3 as shown within elected Group I.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 10, there is no antecedent basis for "the mounting skid".

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of Wakabayashi et al (USP 4,748,824) and Carter et al (USP 3,295,507) and optionally Lace (USP 3,614,593).

Wakabayashi discloses an auxiliary engine 35 and electrical generating device 33 mounted on a skid common mount 30. The common mount 30 permits the engine and generator to be removed from the housing 1 as a unit. See the abstract and the detailed portion of the specification, both incorporated here by reference. The housing 1 is adapted to be mounted on the front wall of a trailer, an exterior portion of a vehicle (see, Figures 5 and 6 of Wakabayashi). No electrical motor driving a lubricant pump attached to a filter is shown connected to auxiliary engine 35.

Carter teaches a lubricant pump 24, driven by an electric motor 26, mounted exteriorly of an engine 10. The electric motor 26 is powered by battery 28 and, conventionally, generator 42 recharges battery 28, as is well known to those of ordinary skill in this art, official notice being taken of this well-known fact. A lubricant filter 20 is located, fluidly, between the pump 24 and the engine 10 and operates as described in column 5, lines 41-57, that explanation being incorporated here by reference. The

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advantage to this type of external oil recirculation system is that it prolongs the life of the engine.

To have added a lubricant pump 24 driven by an electric motor 26 (and associated electrical circuitry 30, 32 and 42) and the lubricant filter 20 of Carter to the engine 35 of Wakabayashi to improve service life of engine 35 of Wakabayashi would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. As shown in Figure 16 of Wakabayashi, generator 33 recharges battery 36, in the manner discussed above in reference to Carter. In making this modification, Carter's circuitry, at 30 would be connected to battery 36 of Wakabayashi.

Regarding claim 2, see electric motor 26 of Carter. Regarding claims 3, 4 and 10, see skid 30 of Wakabayashi. Regarding claim 5, generator 42 in Carter generates DC electricity, as does generator controller 12 in Wakabayashi. Regarding claim 6 and 11, generator 33 of Wakabayashi is an AC generator and generator 42 of Carter is a DC generator. To have used a DC generator in Wakabayashi (as taught by Carter at 42) in addition to AC generator 33, to advantageously avoid having to use a generator controller 12 to rectify and reduce the AC output of generator 33 from 460 Volts AC to 12 Volts DC would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. While Carter is silent as to whether generator 42 is an alternator-type generator (e.g. alternator with a diode-bridge or slip-rings) alternator-type generators are extremely well known and official notice is taken here (if necessary, see Lacey USP 3,614,593, second full

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paragraph in column 1, incorporated here by reference). Regarding claim 7, the DC generator 42 (which could be an alternator-type DC generator, as discussed in regard to claim 6) in Carter recharges the battery 28 and that in turn powers electric motor 26 which drives pump 24.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Note Mellum, USP 5,333,678, Figures 2 and 3 and col. 3, lines 34-37, incorporated here by reference.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John K. Ford whose telephone number is 571-272-4911. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cheryl Tyler can be reached on 571-272-4834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JKF



**John K. Ford**  
**Primary Examiner**